

Appln No. 09/471,208

Amdt date September 6, 2005

Reply to Office action of April 4, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2, 4-10, 12-15, 17-22, and 25-26 will be pending in this application upon entry of the above supplemental amendments. Claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 14, 17, 22, and 25 have been amended. Claims 3, 11, 16, 23, 24, and 27 have been canceled. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above supplemental amendments and remarks that follow, allowance of the now pending claims 1-2, 4-10, 12-15, 17-22, and 25-26 is respectfully requested.

In the final Office action, the Examiner indicated that claims 24-26 contain allowable subject matter. Via this supplemental amendment, Applicant has incorporated the limitations of claim 24 and intervening claim 23, into independent claims 1, 9, 14, and 22. Independent claim 27 been canceled. The remaining claims depend on an allowable base claim. Accordingly, an early indication of allowance of claims 1-2, 4-10, 12-15, 17-22, and 25-26 is respectfully requested.

If there are any other outstanding issues that may be resolved over the telephone, Applicant respectfully requests

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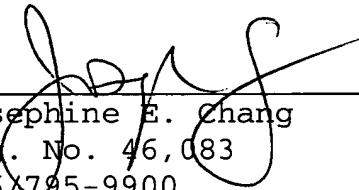
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that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

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